



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



PHONE 734-0200
227 BROWN STATE OFFICE BUILDING
1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201

CARROLL A. CAMPBELL, JR.
GOVERNOR

BILL J. SAMS
DIRECTOR

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VETS GAZETTE

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STATE DOCUMENTS

"FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK"

A GI insurance dividend hoax aimed at veterans for more than 25 years is again plaguing the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, this time a new target --- the Vietnam Era veteran.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) reports it is receiving nearly 15,000 applications a week for nonexistent dividends at its Philadelphia Insurance Center. Many of the letters are from Vietnam Era veterans. The USDVA operates the nation's fifth largest insurance system but does not pay dividends on lapsed National Service Life Insurance policies.

The mysterious applications promise dividends whether or not the insurance is still carried and announce that payments for as much as several hundred dollars are due.

The announcements attribute the bogus dividend to recent legislation passed by Congress. There has been no such legislation.

The USDVA's legitimate dividends are paid each year to more than three million policyholders. Payments are automatic to those who continue to pay premiums, usually on the anniversary date of the policy. No application is needed.

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS NEWS

The major service organizations have announced the following dates and places for their National Conventions:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| American EX-POW's | Sept. 18-22, 1989 | Niagara Falls, NY |
| American Legion | Sept. 1-7, 1989 | Baltimore, MD |
| AMVETS | Aug. 12-19, 1989 | Grand Rapids, MI |
| Disabled American Veterans | July 29-Aug. 3, 1989 | Las Vegas, NV |
| Paralyzed Veterans of America | Aug. 14-19, 1989 | Portland, OR |
| Veterans of Foreign Wars | Aug. 18-25, 1989 | Las Vegas, NV |
| Vietnam Veterans of America | Aug. 3-6, 1989 | Chicago, IL |

COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICERS NEWS

On May 8, 1989, 17 County Veterans Officers (CVAO) from the upper part of the State attended the first CVAO Seminar. The one-day seminar was hosted by the Newberry County Veterans Affairs Office. Hats off and special thanks to Al Morrison for arranging for the meeting place, lunch and everything else that went into making this meeting a success. A similar seminar is being planned for the lower portion of the State. As soon as plans for the location and date are finalized, we will be sending out a memo to the CVAO's requesting agenda items.

Reappointment of each CVAO is again due. As of this writing, we have reappointed 26 CVAO's. These reappointments are accomplished each odd numbered year as required by law.

USDVA APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF REHAB MEDICINE

James L. Green, Jr., M.D. has been appointed Director of the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) Rehabilitation Medicine Service.

Dr. Green, who most recently was Chief of Rehab Medicine at the William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center here in Columbia, will oversee the activities of more than 4000 physicians, therapists and technicians who provide a broad spectrum of rehabilitation services to disabled veterans.

Dr. Green has held a number of positions in academic medicine at both the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Before joining the Veterans Administration in 1967, he was a Medical Officer at the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston.

KENTUCKY VIETNAM VETERANS BONUS

If you served in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia or waters contiguous thereto or airspace over same at any time from July 1, 1958, through May 15, 1975; in the Dominican Republic or Congo from July 3, 1965, through May 15, 1975, or on active federal service outside of these areas from August 5, 1964, through May 15, 1975, you may qualify for a Vietnam Veterans Bonus. Other qualifying criteria are: separation under other than dishonorable conditions, have been a resident of Kentucky at the time of entry into active federal service and for at least six months prior thereto, and not have received a veterans bonus from Kentucky or any other state. For further information call:

Veterans Affairs Division
Boone National Guard Center
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
502-564-8513

Field Service Branch
Veterans Affairs Division
Federal Building
Louisville, Kentucky 40202
502-588-4447

ATOMIC VETERANS COMPENSATION

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) is reviewing thousands of radiation sickness claims by veterans who were exposed to radiation while serving on active duty.

The provisions of the Atomic Veterans Compensation Act of 1988, Public Law 100-312, requires the USDVA to pay benefits to veterans who were exposed to radiation during military service if they developed certain types of cancer within a certain time frame.

Radiation exposure must have occurred as a result of nuclear testing from 1945 to 1962, or during the U. S. Military occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki, Japan, between August 6, 1945, and July 1, 1946.

The diseases include leukemia except chronic lymphocytic leukemia, cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine and pancreas, multiple myeloma, lymphoma except Hodgkins disease, as well as cancer of the bile ducts or gall bladder. Also, included is primary liver cancer unless cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated.

AGENT ORANGE FUND

The first of thousands of payments from the \$170 million Agent Orange Veteran Payment Program have been mailed. The first 172 checks went to families of deceased Vietnam veterans who were exposed to the defoliant in Southeast Asia.

The initial checks that were released totaled \$500,000 and were approved by Judge Jack B. Weinstein, who oversees the Agent Orange litigation. The payments averaged about \$3000.

GREEN BERETS SOUGHT

The U. S. Army is trying to lure former Green Berets back to active duty.

Management officials with the Enlisted Directorate of the Total Army Personnel Command said former Special Forces sergeants, staff sergeants and sergeants first class are eligible for the program. NCO's who separated within the last 36 months can return to duty with no loss of rank. Interested veterans should contact the Special Forces recruiting team at the Special Warfare Center and School, Fort Bragg, NC. Qualified applicants may call collect at (919) 432-1818.

TOLL-FREE INFORMATION

The toll-free number for Social Security Benefit estimates was reported incorrectly in our last bulletin. The correct number is 1-800-234-5772. CHAMPUS users who have questions on claims or correspondence they submitted to Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina may call 1-800-476-8500 for assistance.

THE DEFINITION OF A VETERAN

A VETERAN is not an outsider to our business...he's our reason for existence.

A VETERAN is not an interruption of our work...he's the purpose of it. We are not doing him a favor. He is doing us a favor by letting us serve him.

A VETERAN is not a cold statistic...he is a flesh-and-blood human being with feelings and emotions like our own.

A VETERAN is not someone to argue or match wits with...he deserves courteous, attentive and sympathetic treatment.

A VETERAN is not dependent on us...we are dependent on him.

A VETERAN is there to be served, not just tolerated...it is our job to handle him properly...both for his sake and for our own.

A VETERAN makes it possible that our salaries get paid...whether we are a Clerk, Claims Representative, Service Officer or Director of the South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs.

***A VETERAN is the MOST IMPORTANT PERSON
in our business.***

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